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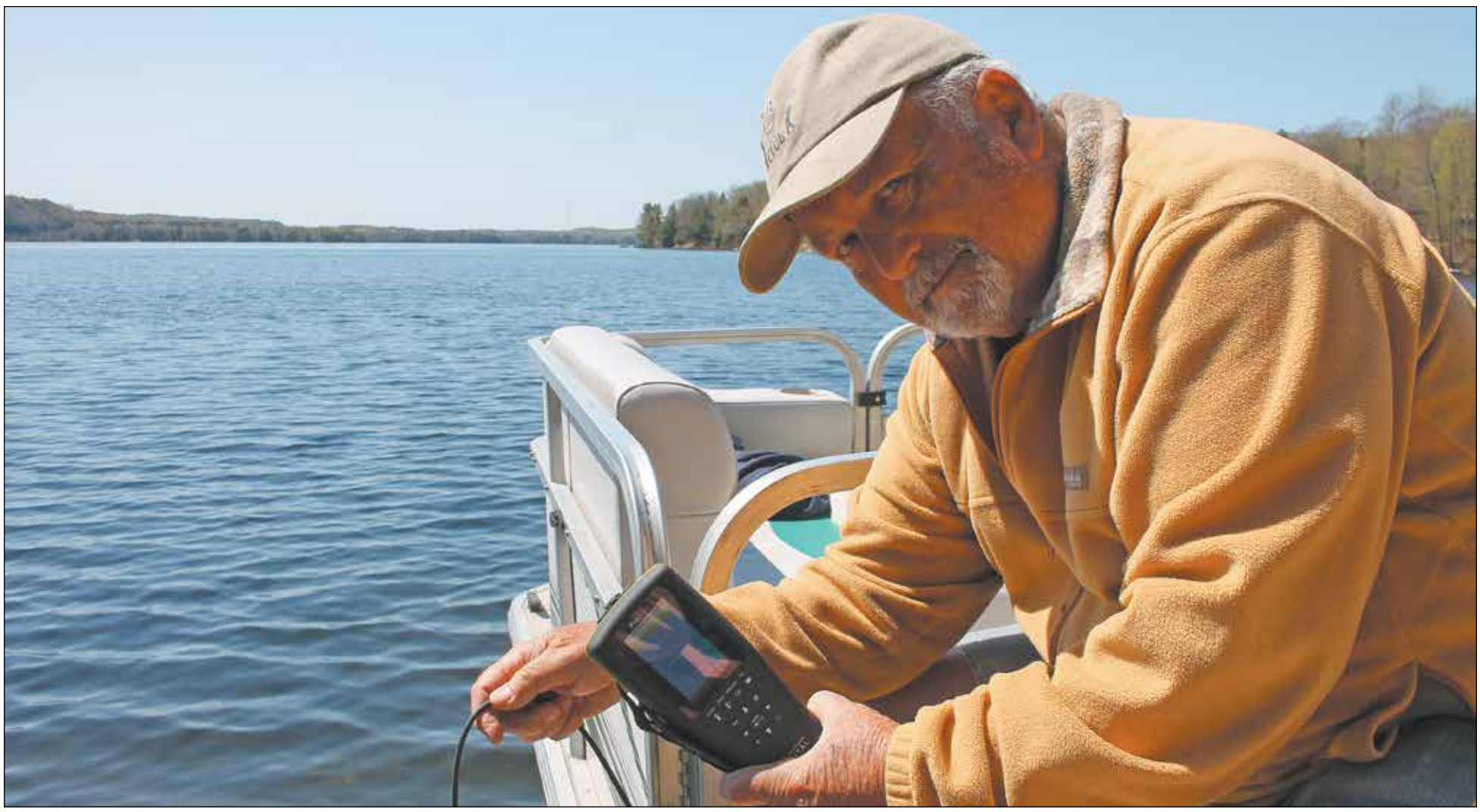
The Highlander

Thursday May 15, 2025 | Issue 689

INSIDE: HOME IN THE HIGHLANDS AND THE HIGHLANDER HANDBOOK FREE



Larry Tompkins has voluntarily done water sampling for years on Twelve Mile Lake. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Province urged to renew water program

By Lisa Gervais

About this time every spring, Larry Tompkins takes his boat onto Twelve Mile Lake and tests the water; for things such as temperature and dissolved oxygen.

It's a volunteer gig using equipment purchased by Boshkung, Mountain and Twelve Mile Lake associations in 2019.

He'll be back on the lake in the fall to take another set of 2025 measurements.

Demonstrating from his pontoon boat, Tompkins explains, "certain fish, primarily lake trout, can only survive at a certain oxygen level. It also gives you an idea of how much bacteria and algae is in your lake because algae eat the oxygen."

He records his findings with pencil on paper and sends them to the Dorset Environmental Science Centre, as well as U-Links, which partners with 10 lake associations to monitor 24 lakes.

Tompkins is part of the province's Lake Partner Program (LPP), which the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Associations (CHA), and the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) say could be at risk.

FOCA says the five-year agreement for the LPP ended in March, "amid turmoil due to a snap provincial election and the appointing of a new minister of environment, conservation and parks.

"Despite repeated reassurances that a new agreement was on its way to FOCA, we have now reached a critical point in the sampling annual cycle, and the 2025 data is at risk unless an agreement with MECP is

Continued on page 2

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Continuous, long-term data key for scientists

Continued from page 1

confirmed now," FOCA added.

Gary Wheeler, a spokesman for Environment, Conservation and Parks told *The Highlander* May 12, "the program has not been cancelled and we intend to work with our partners to implement renewed agreements for the 2025 season."

Jim Prince is with the U-Links program. He said he does not think the LPP will be cancelled, but that this is a pre-emptive strike by FOCA, similar to one done five years ago, to ensure the program continues. "The value for the cost is enormous and it gives the province the opportunity to say they're doing something good about the environment."

FOCA said, "the LPP provides immense value to the public and to Ontario as a whole. It is one of the largest long-term databases on water quality for freshwater lakes … essential for research and analysis conducted by universities, government, community groups, and scientists."

The water sampling is done by 629 FOCA lake steward volunteers who monitored 546 lakes at 917 sites across the province in 2024. FOCA added although the sampling is done by volunteers, the LPP is not possible without the ministry's involvement to conduct the lab analysis of the samples, and through financial support of a FOCA employee in Dorset who manages the hundreds of volunteers and coordinates requests for information and outreach about the program.

'It's a critical program'

Chair of the CHA, Paul MacInnes said he had sent emails to the MECP and MNR, as "most of the organized lakes in Haliburton County, as with everywhere in Ontario, use the Lake Partner Program, and have been using it for 15-plus years."

MacInnes said consistency is key. "You need one lab doing all the lakes, 400 and some odd that are in the program in Ontario. It's a critical program, and it can't be done any other way."

He added the timing could not be worse, as "you're getting very close to the time where the test kits are sent out for the summer."

He would hate to see the data disrupted, saying scientists need continuous long-term records. "That gives the scientists what they need, and we need those scientists to be coming up with some solutions."

He said the CHA correspondence to government "focuses on the impact that unhealthy lakes would have on our economy in Muskoka, Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes etc. Our economies are based on healthy lakes."

Back on Twelve Mile Lake, and Tompkins said he will still test the water this spring and fall, and send the results to U-Links and whomever else wants it.

"It's still terribly important because without the data – being in business all my years – if you can't track it, you can't control it. Basically, it's the same principle here. If we're not tracking it, we can't control it.

"It's going to affect us as lakefront property owners. You're sitting here looking at that beautiful lake, and you can't use it. How frustrating is that going to be? And nobody is going to want to own something that they can't use."

Larry Tompkins drops sampling equipment into Twelve Mile Lake. *Photo by Lisa Gervais*

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Volunteers help to clean up the Dahl Forest on May 3. *Submitted.*

Ice storm closes Dahl Forest

By Mike Baker

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust's (HHLT) Joan Duhaime says there's no guarantee the Dahl Forest will reopen to the public this summer.

The 500-acre site was "badly damaged" during the late-March ice storm, with hundreds of trees and two hydro poles felled, Duhaime said. While not live, she noted wires connecting 10 hydro poles on the property are still lying on the ground.

Because Dahl Forest is privately owned – donated to HHLT by Peter Dahl, his wife Jan, and Nana McKernan in 2009 – responsibility for getting power re-established falls on the property owner. The non-profit has insurance, so costs are covered, but Duhaime said it's been a challenging few weeks assessing the damages.

"It's quite a mess. All of the seven trails are impassable – there are literally hundreds of trees down," Duhaime said. "My husband and I tried to walk in through one trail shortly afterwards. We climbed over two piles of trees, but the path ahead was covered as far as our eyes could see.

"There are quite a few dangerous situations where tree limbs have snapped off but are stuck on other branches 20-feet in the air. With power lines still down, we can't reopen until we feel the area is safe. We're estimating for later in the summer, but it's a big, big question mark. A lot depends on getting hydro workers in."

Not all of the approximate five-kilometre trail system has been inspected yet, with Duhaime saying HHLT members still can't get to some of the deeper pathways.

Clean-up started May 3, with about 15 people helping to clear debris from around the Dahls' home, which they still use part-time. Duhaime said Peter and Jan were home when the storm hit and were trapped for two days. Neighbours pooled together to clear their driveway, which also allowed Duhaime and other HHLT members to access the wider property.

The land trust isn't responsible for financing repairs to structures and hydro, with insurance taking care of that, but will have to find the money to restore the trails. Duhaime said HHLT is aiming to raise $30,000 for the work.

"We have a lot of work that we need to hire an arborist for," she said, noting the forest's red pine population "took a pretty big beating."

All of those trees were planted by Dahl and his father, William, over 60 years ago. Duhaime said the makeup of Dahl Forest has been forever changed.

"It will be emotional for a lot of people, because it will look different. It's not necessarily a bad thing – it's nature. The forest will regenerate, and we'll get some new growth in there, but it's such a quick switch from what it was to what it will look like from now on," Duhaime said.

Given the destruction County-wide, Duhaime said HHLT hopes to partner with U-Links Centre for Community Based Research and Trent University for a post-storm analysis of the Highlands' red pine plantations.

"It will be really interesting to see over the next 10 years what's going to happen in some of these areas that used to be densely forested, but now they're not," she said.

HHLT's other sites, like Barnum Creek Nature Reserve, were minimally impacted and are open, Duhaime said.

Donations can be made online via haliburtonlandtrust.ca. Anyone wanting to assist with clean-up can contact admin@haliburtonlandtrust.ca.

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Highlander news

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COUNTY BRIEFS

Strong position

The County of Haliburton ended 2024 with a $1.66 million surplus, with Andrea Robinson, director of corporate services, telling officials at an April 23 meeting that the upper tier is in a "strong" financial position.

Total revenues increased approximately $547,000 to just under $30.8 million last year, with expenses up $813,000 to $29.5 million. While this accounted for a $779,000 budgeted surplus, the County's auditor, Oscar Poloni of KPMG Canada, said there's another $900,000 left over from expenses that were budgeted last year, but not incurred.

Robinson said the windfall was part-funded by $235,000 in additional tax revenues from new builds and renovated properties. The County's investments performed well in 2024, providing $480,000 in surplus revenue. She noted staff "did well" selling old equipment last year, with three pick-up trucks, a van used by the administration department, and a tandem loader selling for $15,000 over target.

The additional money will be transferred to reserves, Robinson added, with $723,000 earmarked as working funds, $408,496 going to roads capital reserves, $295,000 to winter maintenance reserves, $205,000 to library reserves, and the remainder split between planning, community safety and wellbeing, and accessibility nest eggs.

The County of Haliburton's audited financial statements showed the upper tier ended 2024 with a $1.66 million surplus. *File.*

New equipment

The County will add two new pickup trucks to its fleet this year,

Public works director Sylvin Cloutier said, per the County's fleet replacement plan that includes a 10-year shelf life for vehicles, he is looking to replace two 2016 units this year. He said four bids were received, with the County budgeting $136,000 for the project.

Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC was the low bidder, coming in at $119,750 taxes in. Cloutier noted as part of the bid, Algonquin Highlands will also receive a truck, which that municipality is paying for.

Three vehicles are also being bought to grow Haliburton County EMS' community paramedicine program, for a total price of $123,354. Launched in 2017, the program boasts four full-time paramedics who conduct in-home visits seven days per week.

Council also ratified purchasing three new defibrillators and two automatic CPR machines, to be utilized by EMS staff, for $157,899 excluding tax.

Road works

Miller Paving Limited has been awarded the County's surface treatment contract for 2025.

It was one of two companies to bid for the work, beating Greenwood Paving's best price by $56,000. Cloutier said it was above budget at just over $1.32 million. The County had earmarked $1.28 million for the job – though the public works director said the overage will be covered by savings from the County's hot mix roads tender, which came in under budget.

He said a 7,710 metre stretch of Horseshoe Lake Road from the Hwy. 35 south junction to the single lane bridge will get resurfaced this summer, alongside 3,500 metres of Livingston Lake Road from County Road 8 to McClintock Road, and 2,020 metres of Essonville Road from the Esson Lake landing.

911 upgrades

County council has learned it will cost just over $27,000 upgrading its GIS data to allow for enhanced 911 services across the Highlands.

The upper tier is working with Next Generation 911 (NG911) on a new Life Cycle Strategy project that incorporates modern technologies like text, video and data sharing over an IP-based network.

IT director Mike March said the system "improves the accuracy and efficiency of emergency response by ensuring calls and related data are routed correctly." A key component of NG911, March said, is that 911 calls will have the ability to be routed via public safety grade GIS data, with that technology available by May 2027.

BH Group Inc. will complete the work for the County. *(County of Haliburton briefs compiled by Mike Baker).*

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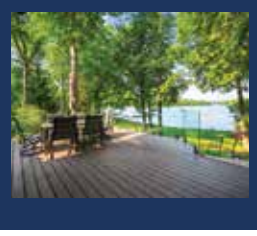

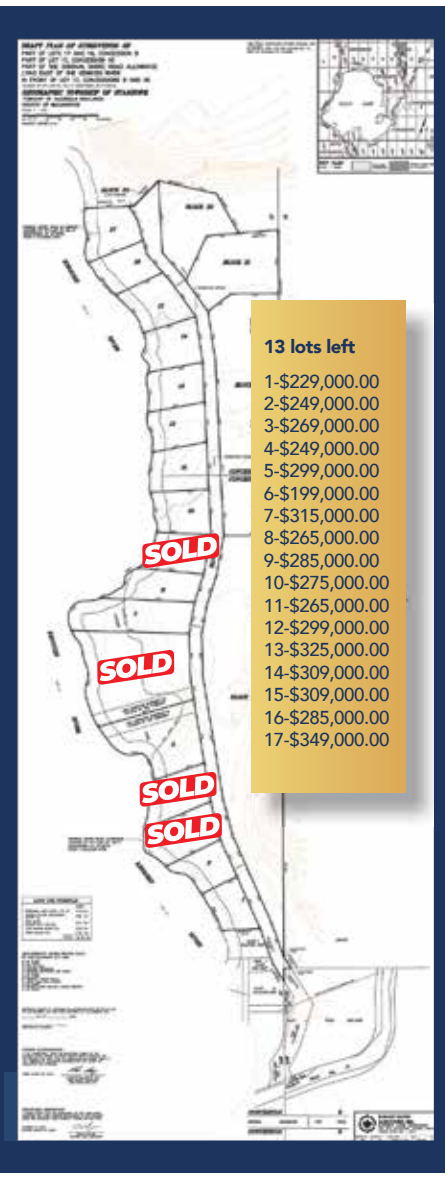

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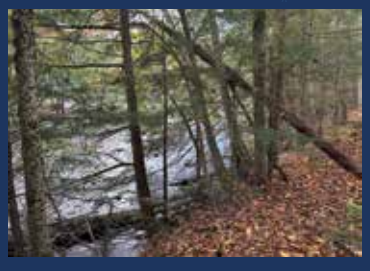

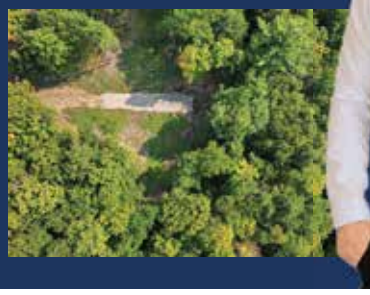

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Fire spread across the upper floors of the main lodge of the Wigamog Inn May 3. *File.*

OFM won't probe Wig blaze

By Mike Baker

The Ontario Fire Marshal's (OFM) office has confirmed there will be no further investigation into the May 3 fire at the Wigamog Inn site in Haliburton.

Sean Driscoll, OFM spokesperson, told *The Highlander* in a May 7 email that the provincial watchdog was notified of the fire but will not be following up.

"The *Fire Protection and Prevention Act* mandates that the OFM conduct an investigation to determine cause, origin and, circumstances of any fire or explosion as deemed necessary," Driscoll said, indicating the blaze didn't meet the fire marshal's criteria for further inspection.

On its website, the OFM states it investigates fires that result in fatality or serious injury; where the loss is significant to the community, at either $1 million in damages or twice the residential average sale price for the area; that involve illegal drug operations; or result in widespread public concern, with environmental hazards listed.

In a recent interview, Jerry Stokes, who resides in the neighbouring Silver Beach subdivision, said he and many neighbours are worried about the impact possible contaminants, such as asbestos and lead-based paints, could have on the atmosphere.

Driscoll did not respond to a follow-up asking if Stokes' concerns constituted an environmental hazard, though noted in his initial response that police agencies take the lead in criminal investigations and have the power to make the determination of criminality, suspicious or otherwise.

Haliburton Highlands OPP cadet Victoria Preddy said, "police canvassed the area to see if anyone saw suspicious activity around the time of the fire. Police came back with negative results on canvassing… looks like the fire marshal declined to investigate due to no evidence of potential arson being present."

Meanwhile, Gary Wheeler, spokesperson for the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP), said nobody has contacted the ministry to notify them of the fire. Demolition of the property has been paused since June 2023 after MECP confirmed the presence of two at-risk species, bats and the eastern hog-nosed snake.

Site owner, Aurora Group, has been told it needs to complete more environmental testing to determine whether any of the species, or their habitat, exist at or near the proposed demolition activity before teardown can resume.

In a May 7 email, Wheeler confirmed that requirement is still in place.

"If demolition activities are still required, Aurora Group or whomever is conducting the demolition is responsible for determining whether the activities require authorization under the *Endangered Species Act* and take appropriate next steps," he said.

Dysart et al mayor Murray Fearrey said the township is seeking legal opinion as council considers its next steps. He wants to see the remainder of the site torn down as soon as possible.

"It's frustrating – council or staff, we've either fumbled the ball, or didn't get the ball in the right position for this to have gone on as long as it has. We've got to be nearing the end here now. With this fire, I don't know what we can do, but council is committed to finding a way to finish this job legally. We're working on it," Fearrey said.

With the roof of the main lodge caving in during the fire, the mayor expressed concern over the building's structural integrity. He suggested any species that were living within the Wig's confines likely aren't anymore, questioning the MECP's decision to uphold study requirements before demolition can proceed.

"Common sense has to prevail here sooner rather than later," Fearrey said.

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MINDEN HILL NEWS

Wayfinding signage

Minden Hills council, at its May 8 regular council meeting, picked a timber design for new wayfinding signs for the village.

They preferred the 'timber' black tint signs, with blue and green accents over two other designs; one a 'natural forest', and one 'my Haliburton Forest.'

County of Haliburton director of economic development and tourism, Scott Ovell, is making the rounds of lower-tier councils with an update on the wayfinding project; along with contractor pl.ural.

Ovell said the plan is to use municipal accommodation tax (MAT) revenue, and perhaps government grants, to fund the Countywide project, estimated at a cost of $500,000 to $650,000. He added if adopted by local governments, it could take two to six years to complete.

Sean Kelly of pl.ural said they were looking at 27 signs for Minden itself, three for Ingoldsby, five for Irondale, three for Lochlin, and eight for rural Minden – for a total of 46 signs.

He said council should "ensure you are appealing to civic pride. In most cases, in most of these projects, we find that citizens, residents, and visitors are usually quite proud of signage and having something marked."

Coun. Pam Sayne said she was "very excited to see this happening, supportive all the way." She said she's like to expedite a sign on Hwy. 35 pointing to Minden's downtown.

Minden Hills may be getting new signage. *File.*

Tender for roadworks

Council awarded the tender for its 2025 road resurfacing program to Miller Paving Limited for $1,651,103.25.

Director of public works, Mike Timmins, said while $41,944.25 over budget, the shortfall can be covered from the roads' capital reserve, which has a balance of $600,000.

During 2025 budget talks, council directed staff to resurface Davis Lake Road, Miners Bay Road, Buller Road and Wigamog Road. The request for tenders also included slurry seal for parts of Scotch Line Road west and Wigamog Road.

Timmins said they got two quotes with Miller Paving outbidding Greenwood Paving.

New ice resurfacer

Council approved trading in the current ice resurfacer and buying an Olympia 2025 Millennium H unit for $100,452-plus HST from arena equipment reserves, which were $503,444 at the end of 2024.

Director of community services, Candace McGuigan, said the township purchased its current unit in 2016, and the life cycle is eight years, or 5,000 hours, whichever comes first.

"The ice resurfacer is a vital piece of equipment in the township's ice operations. Ice operations run approximately 10 months of service each year, and provide a substantial portion of S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena's yearly revenue," McGuigan said.

Staff first recommended replacement in 2024. She said staff then noticed the front wheel was out of alignment, with seized lug nuts and a compromised wheel to axle connection. Olympia gave them a loaner and came back with a $25,000 cost replacement. She didn't think this was a good spend with the age of the unit.

She also inquired about a Zamboni 446, but it would cost slightly more.

Advancing strategic plan

Council will tender for the completion of its strategic plan.

CAO Cynthia Fletcher recommended they hire Arising Collective, who did a community engagement program, to help the township finish the job off.

However, the majority of council said they should still put it out to market.

Fletcher said a strategic plan would set the priorities that guide decision-making to achieve the long-term vision for the community.

(Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

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Skyline Park restoration into second year

By Mike Baker

It's been seven months since Haliburton Rotary unveiled a four-year beautification plan for Skyline Park, with long-time member Ursula Devolin saying volunteers have made major strides since work began last fall.

Approximately 20 Rotarians were on-site May 10 as the group kick-started its efforts for the year. Devolin said workers used an excavator to reshape and level the picnic area, removed hazardous tree roots protruding out of the ground, laid topsoil and grass seed, and installed picnic tables.

This followed work done last year to restore the viewing platform that overlooks Haliburton village. Devolin said several dead trees have been removed, with branches impeding views of the village landscape also taken down.

"We've put in gravel pathways that make things a little more accessible for people and will be laying some recycled asphalt so that those with strollers and wheelchairs can safely visit the park," Devolin said.

The group has also improved the parking area, creating space for larger vehicles to maneuver safely.

Later this year, there will be a new picnic shelter installed – with Rotary partnering with Glenn Diezel and students from Fleming College's timber framing program for the build. The club will pay for the construction materials, while students, guided by Diezel, complete the work.

Devolin said that will be the first major installation, with a second picnic shelter and washrooms also planned. She confirmed the project will run through 2027, with Rotary now estimating costs around $200,000.

Volunteers with Haliburton Rotary gathered at Skyline Park in Haliburton May 10 as their restoration of the site continues. *Submitted.*

That's down from the $300,000 to $400,000 they forecast last year, with the decrease attributed to several in-kind donations. Devolin said Haliburton County Development Corporation has kicked in $3,000, Emmerson Lumber has donated some supplies, Randy's Landscaping gifted some topsoil, and Derek Beachli Construction is letting workers use machinery free of charge.

There have been plenty of community donations, too – including $5,000 from one generous donor who read about the project in the paper.

"This has been a total community effort so far," Devolin said.

The park is owned by the Ministry of Transportation and a designated rest stop on Hwy. 118 heading east out of Haliburton village. It was dedicated by Leslie M. Frost on June 20, 1958. The MTO maintains the park through a contract with a local company, but Devolin feels the site "has not been a priority" for the ministry, with few upgrades over the past 65 years.

She said Rotary will continue advocating for MTO investment at the site, hoping the province will help pay for some of the planned upgrades.

One of the last to leave the park on Saturday, Devolin said she was able to see an immediate return on the Rotary club's investment.

"As I was cleaning up, two families drove in, got out of their car with a picnic, and sat down at the tables we'd installed 20 minutes earlier. That was the highlight of the day for me, seeing people enjoying the park together.

"That's exactly what we're trying to promote by doing this – recreating a place where people feel comfortable and can enjoy how beautiful Haliburton is," she said.

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Roadside Brush Collection Program

The County of Haliburton and its member Municipalities are implementing a Roadside Brush Collection Program to help residents deal with impacts of the recent ice storm.

Roadside brush collection will begin Monday, May 12th in the areas most heavily affected by the storm, *this includes the Township of Minden Hills, and designated areas of the Municipality of Highlands East, and the Municipality of Dysart et al..*
The program will run until Friday, June 13th.

This program is available to properties that are currently on year-round, municipally maintained roads. To check eligibility, residents are encouraged to review the map and the collection schedule at the website below.

More Info:

Website: https://haliburtoncounty.ca/brushcollection

Email: brushcleanup@haliburtoncounty.ca

Collection runs from May 12-June 13

Visit our website for FAQs

Haliburton Highlands

Township of Minden Hills

Editorial opinion

TheHighlander
Published by The Highlander Newspaper Limited

OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Renew the agreement ASAP

By Lisa Gervais

Prior to the Victoria Day long weekend, the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA), issued a call to action to save the Lake Partner Program (LPP).

It's a volunteer-based lake water quality monitoring program in Ontario. FOCA is urging its members, supporters, and lake stewards to contact the provincial government to ensure its continued funding.

It seems that amid the snap provincial election and the appointment of a new minister of environment, conservation and parks, the five-year agreement for the LPP ended in March.

While a spokesperson for the ministry assured *The Highlander* May 12 that the program has not been cancelled, and they intend to work with their partners to implement renewed agreements for the 2025 season, FOCA remains antsy.

Timing is certainly an issue. Usually, the lake steward volunteers who do spring sampling are out there. While some lake associations can afford testing equipment, others rely on getting test kits under the program. There is also some concern for the employee out of Dorset who manages the hundreds of volunteers, and coordinates requests for information and outreach about the program.

If the spring testing is not done, it compromises the data. As any scientist will tell you, they need consistent and long-term information to analyze what is going on with our lakes. Skipping the spring, or this season, impacts the scientists' ability to truly monitor lake health.

This is a big program in Haliburton County and the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners' Association shares FOCA's concerns.

There is some confusion out there, too, about the LPP versus the U-Links water sampling program. Both occur in Haliburton County, but the FOCA program reaches far more lakes.

Last year, 629 FOCA lake steward volunteers monitored 546 lakes at 917 sites across the province. The ministry needs to be involved as it helps with the lab analysis of samples and chips in for the cost of the FOCA employee in Dorset.

We all know the value of lakes to Haliburton County; not just for economic reasons but for pure enjoyment. We need to monitor these lakes to ensure their long-term health.

We implore the provincial government to get on with it and renew the agreement. After all, for very little cost to them, they get so much in return, thanks to volunteers. It's a pretty easy example they can point to as to how they are caring for the environment when controversial bills such as Bill 5 are out there – opening them to criticism for anti-environmental policies.

On April 17, Ontario's minister of energy and mines introduced the bill (*Protect Ontario by Unleashing Our Economy Act, 2025*). Bill 5 includes 10 different schedules which, if enacted, go well beyond mining regulation and are intended to amend or repeal key statutes that are important components of Ontario's environmental law framework.

For example, Bill 5 proposes, among other things, to repeal the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* and replace it with what critics say is a watered-down *Species Conservation Act, 2025* and enact the *Special Economic Zones Act, 2025* to empower the Ontario government to declare 'special economic zones' in which provincial laws and municipal bylaws are inoperative

As for the LPP, FOCA is encouraging its members and supporters to write to the provincial government, expressing their support. If you are interested, you can volunteer to participate in the LPP. FOCA also recommends subscribing to their 'Elert' newsletter to stay updated on important issues and future calls to action.

A season of renewal

By Toni Cooper

As the remnants of winter melt away, a collective sigh of relief echoes through the forests.

Spring, with its vibrant colours and warming sunshine, has finally arrived. For many, including outdoor enthusiasts and nature lovers, spring marks a season of renewal, adventure and reawakening of the great outdoors.

As the days lengthen and temperatures rise, spring unveils many activities. For avid hunters, it heralds the much-anticipated turkey hunting season; a time when the woods echo with the unmistakable sounds of wild turkeys, with their elaborate courtship displays and distinct gobbles.

This is by far my favorite hunting season. Not even just for the hunting. To sit in the woods and watch these birds is something magical. Turkey hunting has become more than just a pastime; it's a cherished tradition that brings families and friends together.

Enthusiasts embrace early morning treks through the dew-kissed fields, where anticipation hangs in the crisp air. For many, its not just about the thrill of the hunt; it's a moment to connect with the land and each other. Unfortunately, this year, I have not been hunting near as much as I had hoped to, but with my winter accident, my body and mind are taking some time to heal, which is needed.

But Spring is not solely about hunting; it also welcomes a bounty of seasonal delights. Among the most sought-after treasures are fiddleheads, wild leeks and morel mushrooms. Fiddleheads: young fern shoots emerge from the ground like emerald coils, offering a unique addition to springtime dishes. Their delicate, slightly nutty flavour makes them a favorite among household dinners. Meanwhile, morel mushrooms, with their honeycomb appearance, tantalize the tastebuds, fried with some onions and garlic, these are irresistible. Wild leeks are described as a combination of garlic and onions and are a welcome addition to many dinner dishes. A fun fact about wild leeks is that the whole plant is edible. All are symbols of abundance and the changing season, reminding us of the earth's generosity as it bursts forth with life.

Spring serves as an educational canvas, providing ample opportunities to learn. Nature walks, guided hikes, and workshops encourage knowledge sharing about wildlife, and sustainable foraging practices.

For those who love adventure, springtime offers a chance to rediscover the great outdoors, a period when nature truly awakens. So, dust off your hiking boots, gather your loved ones, and head to the wilderness. Whether you're tracking turkeys, foraging for fiddleheads, leeks or morels or simply soaking in the beauty that surrounds you, spring is a call to reconnect with nature to learn, to explore, and to cherish every moment.

As we navigate through this vibrant season, let us embrace the opportunities that are offered to us, not just in our surroundings, but within ourselves. Spring has sprung; inviting us all to step outside, celebrate life, and share in the joy of the great outdoors.

Clarification: In the May 8 edition of The Highlander, our Photo of the Week was identified as a sprouting ostrich fern. The flower was actually a wood fern. We apologize for this error.

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Haliburton transportation

Dear editor,

I was intrigued by Mike Baker's May 1 article on transportation in the Highlands. This has been an ongoing discussion and debate for years. I'd like to propose a solution, hopefully an equitable one that can be considered a win-win for all.

As a taxpayer, I feel it's imperative we support those who need transportation services, and I am willing to pay additional property tax for this purpose. It's something that's needed, especially between Haliburton and Minden.

It can, however, be cost-prohibitive and capital intensive deploying a traditional solution. Things like infrastructure, management, labour, unions – it all costs big money. I believe something like this requires out-of-the-box thinking to find an alternative approach.

Top of the list is using our existing resources, such as taxi service or an app like Uber/Lyft. These options are available immediately. Other communities in Ontario have found this works well. A rideshare program subsidized by the County, where the customers paid a third of the cost, and the community pays two-thirds, could be an option.

The service could be available on a preset schedule, during the most needed hours – likely in the morning before work, around lunch time, and again in the evening at the end of the workday. How often the service is used, and when, will guide future scheduling.

There could also be an on-demand service when someone requires assistance during off-hours, though with a different fee structure where the customer pays two-thirds and the County picking up the rest of the tab. This applies only to inner community travel between Minden and Haliburton.

Once this plan rolls out, we can look at expanding the service to other hubs in Carnarvon and West Guilford.

This represents an excellent opportunity to demonstrate thoughtful leadership in coming up with a method to further support our community.

Rob Rick
Carnarvon

Pans STR map

Dear editor,

The recent decision by the Municipality of Dysart et al to publicly release a map identifying short-term rental (STR) properties—complete with roll numbers and precise locations—is not just ill-conceived; it is a reckless and egregious violation of privacy that places families, homes, and entire communities at risk.

There was no informed consent. No warning. Just a digital target pinned on hundreds of properties, as if transparency excuses the betrayal of trust. Let's be clear: this isn't accountability—it's exposure. It's a move that emboldens vigilante behaviour and pits neighbour against neighbour under the illusion of public interest.

The irony? This kind of public shaming does nothing to address the actual problems surrounding short-term rentals. Bad actors? Every lake community already knows who they are. The real issues are far more complex: mortgage fraud, illegal duplicate listings, fly-by-night operators, absentee landlords, and inadequate enforcement. A map doesn't solve those problems—it makes them worse by encouraging division and fear.

This map doesn't protect residents. It endangers them. It endangers property owners who are now more vulnerable to scams, theft, and harassment. It endangers guests who may unknowingly walk into tense, hostile territory thanks to a policy that fuels an "us vs. them" mindset between locals and seasonal owners, renters and residents, taxpayers and town hall.

And while we're on it—many of these so-called "rentals" are primary homes. Many are lived in year-round by people who once rented in this area themselves before becoming full-time contributors to the community. That's what makes this all the more despicable: people who helped bring economic life to Haliburton County are now being punished for it.

This was a line crossed. Privacy was sacrificed under the guise of regulation, and trust was shattered in the process. It's time to ask: who is this really helping? Because it sure isn't our community.

Neal Turgeon
Dysart et al

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

The Highlander's Laurie Johnson caught this busy beaver taking a break from the water.

Fear, diversion and lecturing

Dear editor,

Fear mongering, diversion and lecturing are tactics which WKB (we know best) Liberals employ in their never-ending quest for influence, power and often personal wealth.

My sister was born with 80 per cent blindness, cerebral palsy and moderate mental disability. Despite her many severe handicaps, she led as normal a life as possible thanks to the care and love of her family and wonderful caregivers. She died last month of bladder cancer at age 67.

I don't appreciate being lectured in public about 'death journey' by a WKB Liberal as a diversion to avoid explaining their own social media comments, or remaining silent.

The 'climate con' (will Spring ever arrive?), COVID over-spending (where's the government's required post-mortem report?), and now the Trump emergency (which is suddenly over after obvious 'foreign interference') are examples of major diversions exploited to avoid answering questions about the economy; inflation; housing shortage and affordability; out-of-control immigration; rising crime, drug use and deaths; forest management (remember Jasper?); health care; corruption, etc. - the real emergencies after 10 years of the far-left WKB Liberal government.

Choosing to raise a family is a personal choice and those choosing not to because they fear the words of climate politicians (Trudeau, Carney and co.) and others may regret their choice when they realize Canada's air quality is consistently ranked the cleanest in the world (Source: WHO), the earth is five per cent greener than it was 20 years ago (NASA) and polar bears aren't facing extinction (*Blackrock's Reporter*).

The planet is fine, it's the WKB Liberals lecturing to/or on behalf of individuals and groups they know little or nothing about who pose real danger to Canada's potentially vast prosperity and well-being.

Dave Love
Haliburton Lake

SEND IN YOUR PHOTO OF THE WEEK
SEND US YOUR OPINION!

Send them to

editor@thehighlander.ca

Highlander news

Notice
Tariff of Fees

Notice is hereby provided that the Council of the County of Haliburton will be reviewing and considering amendments to the Tariff of Fees By-law-4279 at the Council Meeting to be held on May 28, 2025. The agenda for the above noted meeting date can be viewed online at http://haliburton.civicweb.net Meeting to commence at 9:00 a.m.

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Teacher, hockey coach sentenced for offences

By Lisa Gervais

Kelvin Cheuk-Ho Lee was sentenced in Newmarket Superior Court April 25, after being found guilty Sept. 6, 2024 of two counts of sexual interference against a child under 16 – including one victim while he worked at Haliburton Hockey Haven.

According to the court indictment, Lee, born June 20, 1981, was found guilty following a judge alone trial. The indictment reads that between Aug. 1 and Aug. 31, 2021, "at the town of Haliburton and elsewhere in the Province of Ontario did, with a part of his body, for a sexual purpose, directly or indirectly touch the body of a person under the age of 16 years," contrary to section 151 of the Criminal Code.

The second charge related to a timeframe of Aug. 1, 2017 to January 2022 in Whitchurch-Stouffville and elsewhere in Ontario involving a second minor.

Justice J.R. McCarthy sentenced him to a total of seven years' incarceration, in addition to submitting a DNA sample, non-communication, forfeiture, and being on the Sexual Offenders Information Registration Act (SOIRA) for 20 years.

Meanwhile, York Regional Police issued a media release April 11 saying they had laid Breach of Release Order charges against Lee while he was awaiting sentencing.

They said, "in February 2022, an investigation began into a hockey coach after officers received information regarding a sexual assault. The victim was known to the offender through participation in hockey programs." York Regional Police acknowledged he was found guilty Sept. 6, 2024. They said he was released on bail with conditions that include he not associate with children under the age of 16.

But police said, "in April 2025, evidence was obtained that Lee had violated conditions of his release in the City of Markham and has been charged with two counts of Breach of Release Order."

They said that investigation was ongoing.

The Highlander phoned and emailed Haliburton Hockey Haven with no response as of press time. However, after Lee was charged, Haliburton Hockey Haven told *The Highlander* via email April 12, 2022 "we were shocked to hear the news in February that one of our seasonal employees and a veteran York region school teacher [at the time] was charged with this allegation."

Everyday heroes

May 1 was First Responder's Day in Haliburton County with six emergency hubs opening their doors to the public. Highlands East fire chief Chris Baughman and Gary Mount welcome visitors to the Wilberforce fire hall. *Submitted.*

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COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- May 29 – Regular Council Meeting
- June 12 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link..

HOLIDAY HOURS

The following Township of Minden Hills offices will be closed on Monday, May 19, 2025, to celebrate Victoria Day and will resume regular hours on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

Municipal Administration Office (7 Milne St.)
Fire Hall Administration Office (12418 Hwy. 35)
SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena (55 Parkside St.)
Minden Hills Cultural Centre (176 Bobcaygeon Rd.)

*All waste disposal sites will be open and will operate on Sunday hours.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- *Mountain Lake at a Glance*, an exhibit by Gord Peteran - opening reception Saturday, May 17 from 1:00 – 3:00pm. The Artist talk starts at 1:30 pm including psychoanalyst Dr. Dorenbaum whose essay explores the psychological effects of deep dedication to a single place. Admission is by donation.
- The season opening of the Minden Hills Museum & Heritage Village and Nature's Place takes place on Saturday, May 17 from 10:00am - 4:00pm. See separate ad for details.
- *Cold Journey* (1975) – Minden Hills Cultural Centre on Thursday, May 15 at 1:00 PM. Directed by Martin Defalco, the film is about Indigenous youth in 1970s Canada. Admission is free. The film is presented in partnership with the HCPL – Minden Branch and the National Film Board.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently recruiting for the following vacancies:

- Permanent Part-Time Waste Facilities Operator
- Waste Disposal Site Attendant (24 hrs/week)

Visit www.mindenhills.ca/careers for more information and how to apply.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) DAY

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 24, 2025, from 8:00AM - 12:00 PM at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. Please ensure you have your valid waste disposal card. For full details and a list of accepted items, please visit mindenhills.ca/hazardouswaste.

CELEBRATE CANADA DAY WITH MINDEN HILLS

We are currently looking for vendors to showcase their products, cause, or service for our Canada Day event. Deadline for submission is May 31st, 2025. To reserve your spot please email our Recreation Coordinator, Megan Locker, at mlocker@mindenhills.ca.

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Highlander business

New mural to rock Minden River Cone

By Mike Baker

There has been a major celebrity sighting in Minden village – and it's one that will rock you.

The likeness of iconic Queen frontman Freddie Mercury rests proudly on the Minden River Cone. Mercury is captured in his signature pose, with his right arm pointing straight up. Only, rather than holding a microphone, the mural shows Mercury with an ice cream cone in hand.

The work was completed by Teddy Griffith, an aspiring artist who graduated from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School before moving to Montreal. He got the job after his mother, Renee Griffith and her company As Good As New Painting, was hired to refinish the exterior of the River Cone last fall.

"It was all very serendipitous," said Monica Bolton-Scott, who owns River Cone with her partner Ben Bolton-Scott. "We'd always had a long-term goal to have a mural installed on the building. During one of our consults, I told Renee, she called Teddy and we started collaborating over speakerphone."

A few hours later, Bolton-Scott had three drafts to choose from – the Mercury piece, and two others that predominantly featured the Gull River, which runs through downtown Minden.

Teddy spent a week last October installing his design. Alongside Mercury are several abstract trees to represent the natural landscape of Haliburton County, with a thin stream of blue embodying the Gull.

River Cone owners Ben Scott and Monica Bolton admire the new mural of Freddie Mercury at the rear of the building. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

The piece was covered up over the winter, with people getting a first glimpse when the River Cone reopened for its 30th season May 2. Bolton-Scott said the public response thus far has been similar to her own.

"It's blown everyone away – Teddy's technique and work methods, while interesting to watch, has also created a stunning piece of art," she said. "Some don't know who it is and have to ask, but most can tell right away it's Freddie."

Teddy said he used premium outdoor paint to make the massive mural pop – his cream-coloured body jumping out against the blue-green backdrop. Previously considering himself a hobbyist, with no formal training or experience working in the arts, Teddy said he's now contemplating a career change.

"This is a first-time thing having my art displayed publicly – it's made me think that maybe I can do something with this," he said. "I'm super stoked to have this mural in my home community that I can keep coming back to."

With one bucket list item down, Bolton-Scott said she's turning her attentions to another.

"There's a dead-end road down here that, someday, I'd like to see turned into a splash pad, or a public space that promotes events in the downtown," she said, noting she plans to approach Minden Hills over a possible collaboration.

It's been a busy off-season for the owners, who installed a wooden deck at the rear of the property, added some new picnic tables and a basketball court – donated by Canadian Tire and Home Hardware in Minden – and are installing a dock by the water.

The dock will be named 'Michael's Landing', in honour of Monica's brother who passed away in 2021, shortly after they took over the Cone.

"He was a big kayaker, so he really wanted to build a dock here – it's his birthday May 19, so we're building this platform in his honour. It's a little something for the community, giving them another spot to safely get in and out of the water," Monica said, adding the Cone will host a 30th anniversary celebration in the summer.

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The picturesque landscapes of Haliburton County have attracted many new residents, making the installation of effective septic systems an essential service for maintaining public health and environmental sustainability. What sets Thomas Contracting apart is their deep understanding of the unique challenges posed by the region's diverse geography and soil conditions. The team consists of highly trained professionals who are well-versed in local regulations and best practices. This expertise ensures that every installation meets not only the county's stringent standards but also the individual needs of clients.

Over the years, Thomas Contracting has successfully completed thousands of septic installations, ranging from simple residential systems to complex commercial setups. Their commitment to using high-quality materials and state-of-the-art technology ensures that each system operates efficiently for years to come. Additionally, the company places a strong emphasis on community engagement. Thomas Contracting regularly participates and supports local events and initiatives aimed at giving back to Haliburton County. They believe in giving back to the community that has supported their growth throughout the years. Customer feedback consistently highlights the professionalism, reliability, and friendliness of the Thomas Contracting team.

The company's mission is not just to install septic systems but to educate clients on proper maintenance and care, ensuring that these vital systems function optimally. Of course, septic installs is not all that Thomas Contracting does. They have quite a list of services they offer, available on their website. As Haliburton County continues to grow, Thomas Contracting remains committed to providing exceptional septic solutions, ensuring that both the environment and the health of the community are safeguarded. With a legacy built on trust, quality, and putting the customer first, Thomas Contracting is a name that residents can rely on for all their septic installation and servicing needs.

For more information about their services or to schedule a consultation, you can visit their website www.thomascontracting.ca or contact their office directly: 705-489-2711

Subscribe to their newsletter

Red Hawks crush Brock

The Red Hawks senior girls' soccer team handily beat Brock 7-0 on their home turf May 7, propelling the team to a record of two wins and one loss – for third place in Division A. So far, they've outscored their opponents 19-7. The girls played Holy Cross May 14 but the result was unavailable as of press time. Coach Erin Smith said the Hal High varsity girls' soccer team has 24 athletes from Grade 9-12. "We have a great mix of athletes playing soccer for the first time and a really good group of returning senior athletes." She said winning both games against the other single A teams in their division guarantees the team a spot at the Kawartha regional championships, to be held in Lindsay or Peterborough, May 20. (Lisa Gervais)

Above: Lara Gallant battles hard against Brock. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

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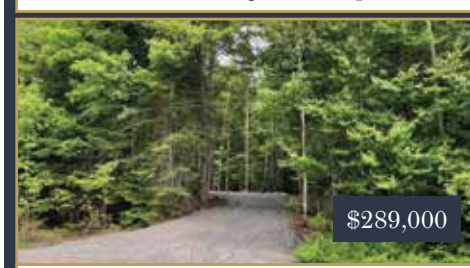

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Junior highlanders

Hal High's got it

County-based teens showed off their skills during the fourth annual Hal High's Got Talent show May 7 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. The evening featured six acts, with youth testing their mettle in singing, dancing and instrument playing.

Above: Skye Knight (L) and Gracie Griffith (R) cover the song "Linger" by the Cranberries. *Photo by Ryan Roediger.*

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Thursday, August 14th | 7:30-9:00pm

THE MERRY WIDOW - Franz Lehar
In this hilarious operetta a wealthy widow is pursued by a multitude of suitors interested in her fortune.
August 21st, 23rd, 25th | 7:30-10:00pm
Pre-performance chat @6:30pm
August 24th | 2:00-4:30pm
(Opera in English; suitable for all ages)
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CONCERTS

#1: OPERA TO BROADWAY
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#2: POP GOES THE OPERA!
Thursday, August 7th | 7:30-9:00pm

#3: HOMECOMING:
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Tuesday, August 5th | 7:30-8:45pm
Check website for location

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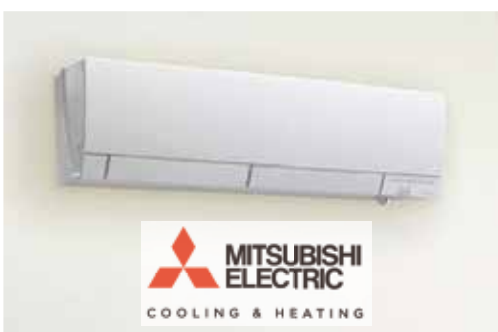

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Top left: Jim Love introduces this year's picks for the Haliburton village downtown sculptures at Rails End Gallery May 7. Top right: Daniella Reddick with *Bronze Sky Pods*. Above left: Jared Tait with *Ma'iingan*. Above right: Marlene Kawalez with *Friends. Photos by Lisa Gervais*

Downtown Haliburton sculptures revealed

By Lisa Gervais

Blacksmith Mark Puigmarti said his sculpture, *Unity Undeniable*, came out of a sense of being "bewildered" by what is happening in the U.S.

He said his forged and fabricated stainless steel and bronze installation at Wind in the Willows, is a "mythical creature inspired from some of our renowned Canadian wildlife" to represent the "incredible patriotism" being displayed by Canadians now.

The sculpture features moose antlers, a Canada Goose neck and head, the torso of a blue heron, feet of a Canada Goose and heron, and a beaver tail.

This year's sculptures were introduced at the Rails End Gallery May 7.

Curator of the Haliburton Sculpture Forest, and downtown Haliburton Sculpture Exhibition, Jim Blake, said it was the eighth exhibition.

"This is a wonderful collaboration between the Haliburton Village Business Improvement Area (BIA) and the Haliburton Sculpture Forest," he said.

Blake added when installing this week, someone asked if people actually noticed the sculptures on the street. At that moment, he said Bill Gliddon walked across and said, "'this is just so fantastic, it adds so much to our downtown'."

Other artists include Garrett Gilbert, whose *Botanical Canoe* – a hand-cut salvaged aluminum canoe etched with flowers - is at Rails End Gallery. He described himself as "a carver of unnatural resources."

Daniella Reddick was en route to becoming a surgeon, but after her first autopsy "panicked and quit." The artist's bronze and mesh piece, *Bronze Sky Pods*, is at the corner of Highland and York streets.

Marlene Kawalez sculpted *Friends*, drawn from processing events in Ukraine. The piece features a person facing a bird. It's at the entrance to Haliburton Foodland.

Carole Chaloupka Burton explored themes of "fragile masculinity" in sculpting her grandsons in her artwork *Soul of a Boy.* "I'm concerned about the world; how they're going to experience the world as young men," she said. For her, art is about processing life, including the death of her brother when he was in his 20s. Her sculpture is at BMO.

Jared Tait's *Ma'iingan* is PVC painted with mural paints. It addresses creation stories and is at Corner Gallery.

Kim Collin's *Geese Please* is made from recycled outdoors materials and is in front of Glecoff's Family Store.

The downtown sculptures are an outdoor exhibition of Ontario artists. It runs this year until Oct. 26. The sculptures are installed at sites along Highland, Maple, and York, the main streets of the downtown core of Haliburton Village. Each year, they have a new exhibition. The sculptures are for sale.

Highlander outdoors

Pups' arrival at wolf centre 'satisfying'

By Lisa Gervais

Quest, Haliburton Forest Wolf Centre's new breeding female, gave birth to two pups May 3, just in time for Mother's Day.

Marena Wigmore, wolf centre and experiences manager, said the new arrivals, both black furred, one male, and one female, should make an already busy summer even more hectic.

"Any time we have pups, we expect it's going to be a busy one. Summer always is, but people love the little ones," Wigmore said.

There has not been a litter since 2022, so "it's been a while," Wigmore added.

"It's always really exciting for us. There's always the bigger picture of the pack as a whole as well, not having pups for a couple of years isn't necessarily a bad thing for the pack but, who doesn't love puppies?"

Luna, the former breeding female, passed away last June. She was 13. The centre had not expected her to have pups in 2023 or 2024, due to her age and for her own well-being. After she passed, it was expected another female would take on the breeding role. During mating season, which runs until the end of February, they saw Uriel and Quest "doing successfully what they needed to do so pups could happen," Wigmore said.

And then they waited.

Wigmore said Quest did not show visible signs of being pregnant, such as a pregnancy belly, or swollen teats through her winter coat. She noted a pup weighs about half a pound at birth, when wolves can eat 20kg of food at once.

Marena Wigmore, wolf centre and experiences manager, with one of the pups. *Submitted*

So, staff observe, looking for things such as the mom being absent when they would normally expect her to be with the pack. On May 2, Quest returned covered in dirt and disappeared fairly quickly.

"That tells us she's been in the den, there is something for her to go back to, that's a pretty sure sign to us that she's done birthing, she's come out, she's come up for air, she's had a bit of a rest."

The next day, centre staff went looking for the den. Because Quest is a first-time mom, they weren't sure where it would be. They started by looking at Luna's previous den, "and fortunately, she had chosen to use that one so it was very quick and easy for us.

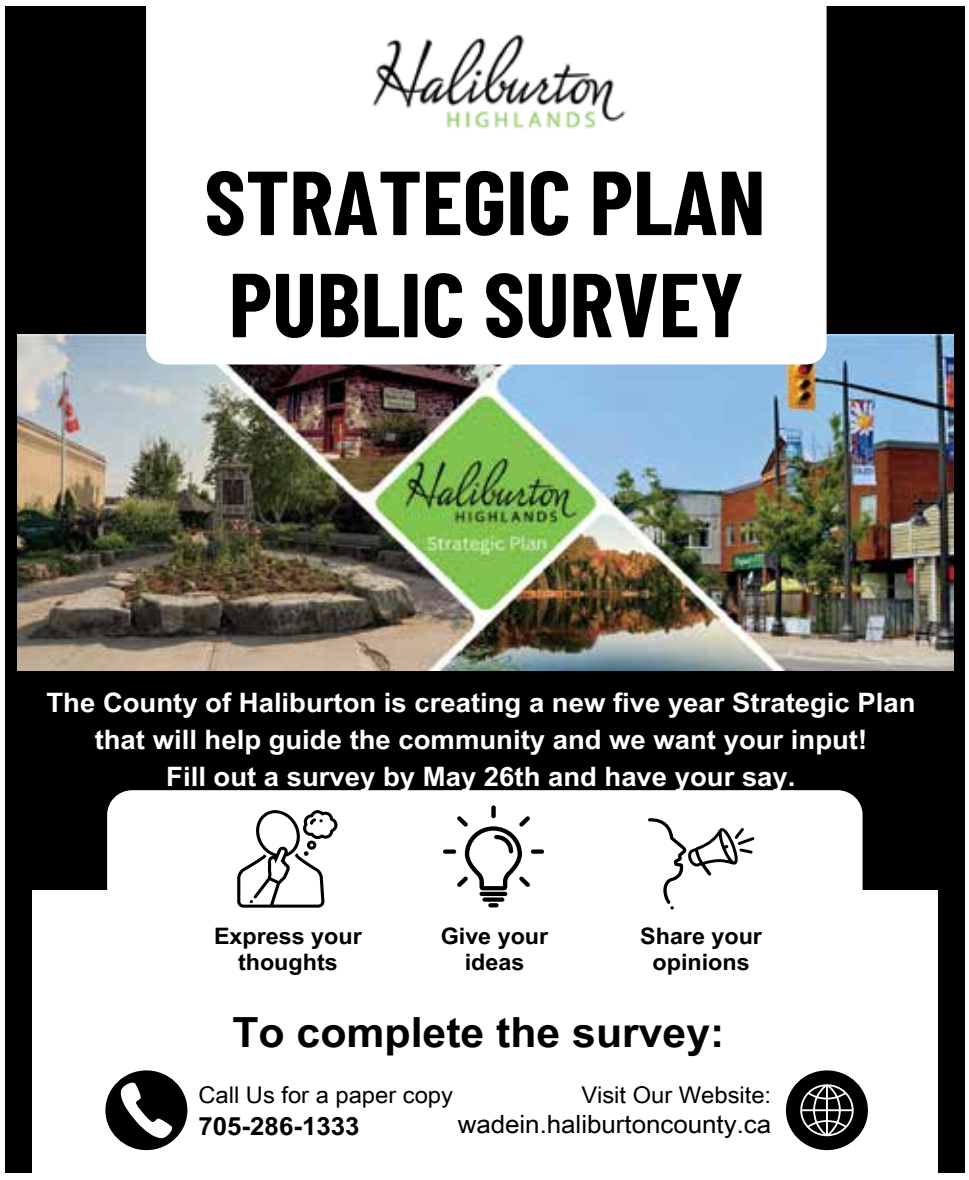
"As soon as we rolled up to the den site, we could tell dirt had been recently dug a little and we started hearing squeaks right away. These two pups are some of the most vocal that I've come across at den check." She added while deworming, the female pup would not keep her head still. She said their vocalness is a sign, "they're strong, they're healthy."

She said the pups were assessed, medicated and returned to the den swiftly. In total, staff spent only 15 minutes in the enclosure. "This keeps the stress on mom to a minimum and allows her to quickly return back to her babies. While these are new pups, there is never a guarantee of survival. But with a smaller litter, we are cautiously optimistic."

Wigmore added Quest doing "everything to a T" as a new mom is both "satisfying and relieving."

Once centre staff see the pups in the observation area for the first time, expected in mid to late-June at six to eight weeks, ensuring they have survived, the centre will launch its naming competition, which lasts six months.

"This year would be letter Z," Wigmore said.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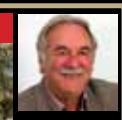

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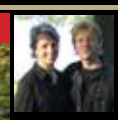

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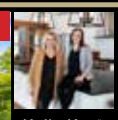

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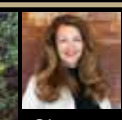

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On May 11, Kattam, a Moroccan-Canadian percussionist from Montreal who entertains with the sounds of the N'goni, Balafon, Djembe, Naffar, Derbouka and Dhol, gave a spirited performance to children and their parents at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. Through rhythm, song and dance from Africa, the Middle East and India, Kattam and his monkey Takoum encouraged the audience to participate in an incredible multicultural adventure. For more information on Kattam, visit his website kattam.ca

Above: An African Djembe in the hands of an expert. *Photo by Ryan Roediger*

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- A survey available between May 15 and June 15, 2025 to collect local perspectives on shoreline development.
- A Public Open House scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 8th, 2025 at the Municipal Office at on 135 Maple Avenue. In-person and virtual participation will be permitted.

Please visit **www.dysartetal.ca/feedback** for further information.
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Highlander people

Movies bring filmmaker back from brink

By Mike Baker

Ever since she was a little girl, Fortescue Lake cottager Rebeccah Love has dreamed of seeing her name in bright lights at Highlands Cinemas.

The independent filmmaker said she feels like she's manifested her destiny. Love's first feature-length production, a coming-of-age drama titled *Fortescue*, will run four screenings at the Kinmount theatre May 16 to 19.

"This is one of the most meaningful things in my whole life. I've been watching movies at Highlands Cinemas ever since I was old enough to watch movies. This is the movie theatre that made me fall in love with filmmaking," Love said.

The milestone hasn't come without its challenges, however. A decade into her career, Love said she poured her heart and soul into nine short films before focusing on her first full-run flick. She spent years perfecting a script, finally bringing her hand-selected cast to the Highlands in September 2023 for filming.

They wrapped after three weeks, with post-production running until May 2024. The movie debuted in London, Ontario in October, with Love taking it on tour across Canada over the winter. Kinmount will be its penultimate stop.

Labelling *Fortescue* a fun, quirky, largely upbeat movie, Love said it also deals with a real issue that's close to her heart. When she was 18, enrolled in her first year of university, Love suffered a psychotic breakdown, with frequent episodes spanning the next four years.

"I was in and out of psychosis, in and out of emergency rooms. I had to be put in restraints. I was very sick," Love said.

Filmmaking, it turns out, was an eventual escape for her. At 22, she enrolled in film production at Ryerson University – now Toronto Metropolitan University – and later completed her master's in fine arts and creative writing from the University of Guelph.

Just as she was preparing to launch her new career, she was stricken with a second illness – psoriatic arthritis. She lost all mobility and, also dealing with physical pain, felt herself spiralling headfirst into another episode. But Love was able to catch herself, inspired to turn a lifetime of bad luck and negative energy into good.

"Going through these pretty crazy medical situations, making movies now is a way to process my pain and give a voice to people who have complex psychiatric conditions," Love said. "The thing about psychosis is people suffer behind closed doors. There's no public conversation, no public figures talking openly about how destructive the condition can be. There's still an enormous stigma."

She stopped short of calling her movie an educational film, saying it still dramatizes key topics.

Starring Kelsey Falconer, known for her roles in *The Handmaid's Tale* and *Fargo*, as Lea, Chelsea Preston as Gabby, and Tyson Coady as Kevin, the story follows two teenage girls enjoying summer at a cottage.

"They're eccentric, whimsical... But they're having so much fun. Until suddenly, one of their boyfriends arrives and it changes their dynamic completely," Love said.

The trio come together to put on a play for the local cottage community, though one of the girls experiences a psychotic break, leading to some "very dark and disturbing scenes."

Above: Rebeccah Love watches a scene back from her movie *Fortescue*, which comes to Highland Cinemas May 16 to 19. *Photos by Eli Meadow Ramraj.*

The movie was produced by Love's company Fortescue Film Limited and cost $180,000 to make. The Canada Council for the Arts contributed $100,000, with Love fundraising the remaining $80,000. It took her three years, but she was able to retain creative control, which was important to her.

About 250 people, including volunteers on Fortescue Lake, were involved in making the movie, she estimated.

Love said it's been 14 years since she's been hospitalized, and while she feels like she's in control of her condition, she knows thousands of Canadians are suffering. The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health estimates four per cent of the population – about 1.5 million Canadians – suffer from schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders.

Love hopes that by telling her story, she can help bring other people back from the brink.

"Talking about this lets people know they're not alone. That there's hope for recovery. I'm proof of that," Love said.

The movie will run for four nights at Highlands Cinemas, May 16 to 19, at 7:15 p.m.

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LIVING WELL

55+ games underway in Haliburton County

The OSGA District 11 – Muskoka/Haliburton 2025 summer games are on. They kicked off May 5 with bid euchre at the Minden Curling Club. This past Monday (May 12) saw euchre staged in the same venue. Coming up is: five-pin bowling May 21 at Minden Fast Lane Bowling; cribbage May 29 at the Kinmount Legion; pickleball June 3 at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena; tennis June 10 at the Stanhope Courts; golf June 11 at Blairhampton; with events wrapping up June 13 with walking/Nordic walking. *(Lisa Gervais)*

Top: A large crowd registered for euchre. Bottom Left: Wendy Mycroft plays her cards close to her chest, with Barb Haley-Marsh in the background. Bottom second: Haley-Marsh, Olga Mark, Pearl Cowen, and Mycroft take time out of their game for a photo. Bottom third: Scott Nesbitt, Evelyn Galloway, Kaye Bull and Scott Gartshore play a hand. Bottom right: Diamonds anyone? A close up of a hand.*Photos by Lisa Gervais*

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Highlander community

Highlanders giving the gift of water

By Mike Baker

Minden's Michele Coneybeare will keep putting one foot in front of the other on May 28 as Help a Village Effort (H.A.V.E) brings its annual Walk for Water back to Haliburton County.

Now in its 43rd year, the organization raises awareness of, and funding for, clean water in impoverished villages in India, Coneybeare said. Since 1982, H.A.V.E has built approximately 650 artesian wells in south Asia, averaging 15 to 25 per year.

The goal of the walk this year is to raise $5,000, which should support the drilling of two wells, ongoing maintenance, and educating locals on how the systems work.

According to Coneybeare, having access to clean potable water greatly reduces the risk of contracting water-borne diseases such as typhoid, cholera, hepatitis, and acute diarrheal disease – all prevalent in India.

"H.A.V.E believes clean water is a universal right, not a privilege… our mission is to empower communities with the gift of clean water, one village and one well at a time," Coneybeare said.

Beginning at Minden Hills United Church, participants will stroll along the Minden Riverwalk, completing a two-and-a-half-kilometre journey that symbolizes the trek that women and children make daily in India to get clean drinking water for their families.

While the charity is based in Haliburton County, it has official chapters throughout Ontario, Newfoundland, and British Columbia.

Coneybeare, board chair since 2020, said H.A.V.E has a great track record of helping people in need. In earlier years, the group funded a mobile health care program, support for needy children, and a primary reading program in the Gambia, West Africa.

She's been a member since 2009.

"Our global world is very small and there are many places for our Canadian donation dollars. Access to clean water is more than a health necessity – it is a catalyst for change.

"By providing safe drinking water, H.A.V.E empowers communities to break the cycle of poverty, ensuring healthier families, increased school attendance, and improved livelihoods," Coneybeare said.

To participate, contact a H.A.V.E board member (Coneybeare, Lisa Gervais, Paul Heffer, Nick Kulas, Darren Mills, Cathy Stevens, Debbie Wales) to get a pledge sheet. Money is to be turned in on the day of the walk, with tax receipts provided for amounts over $20.

For more information, visit helpavillageeffort.org.

Michele Coneybeare is encouraging people to take part in the upcoming H.A.V.E. Walk for Water. *Submitted*.

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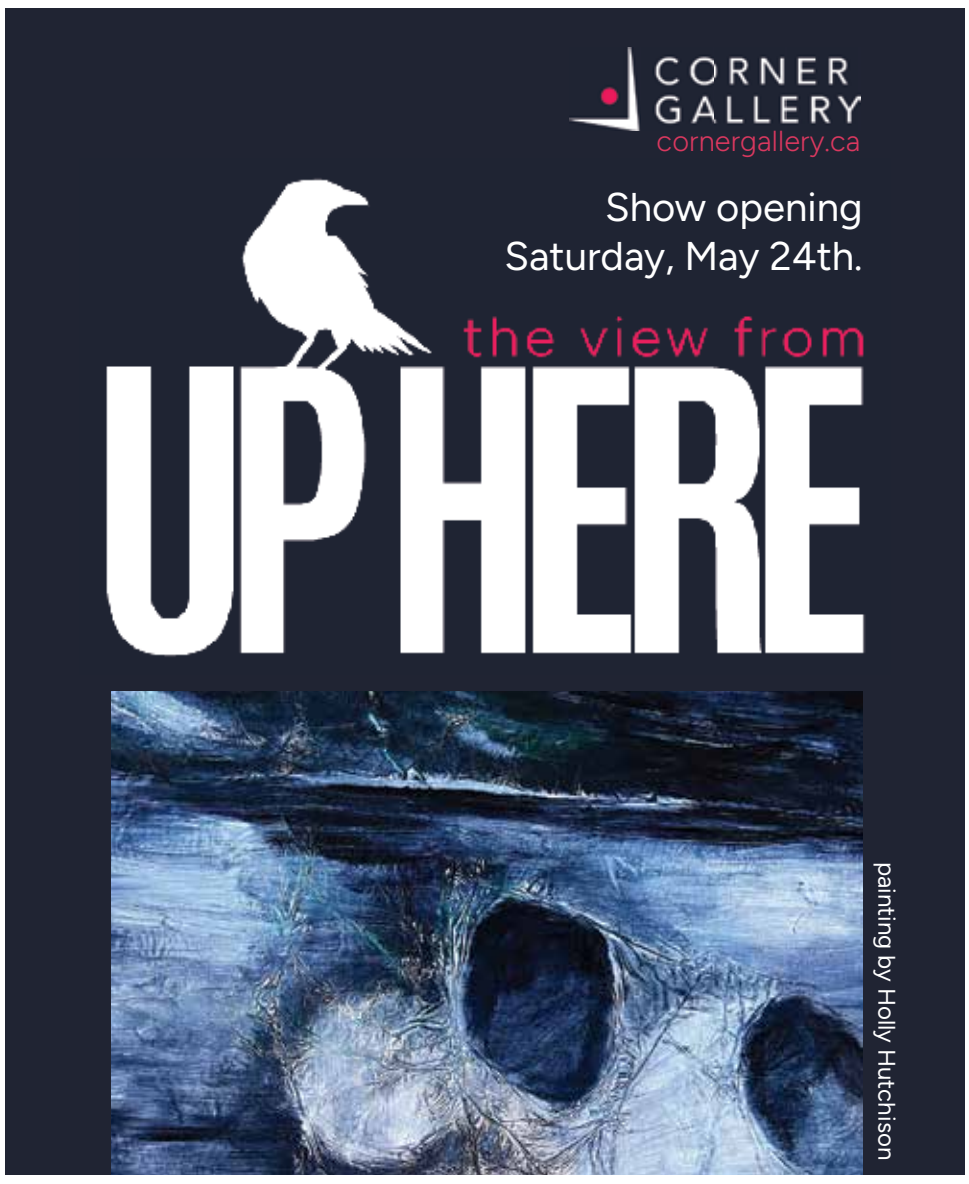
What's on

Discovering nature

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, a not-for-profit organization that manages several donated properties in the County, conducted a guided walk to explore spring wildflowers and leeks at the Barnum Creek Nature Reserve May 10.

Above: A hiker identifies a wildflower found by Michelle Swyer. *Photo by Ryan Roediger*



ADVERTORIAL

Are you a lake legacy leader?

By Simon Payn

There's something magical about those moments at the lake – the call of a loon, the gentle lap of waves, the flash of a bass. These experiences connect us to our lakes in ways that run soul-deep. They're stories we transmit across generations.

But here's the thing: these experiences depend on healthy lakes. And healthy lakes depend on natural shorelines.

This is where you come in. The most forward-thinking cottage owners are establishing themselves as 'Lake Legacy Leaders' – people who understand that how we treat our shorelines today shapes the lakes our grandchildren inherit tomorrow.

I've noticed a shift in what impresses people around our lakes. The manicured lawn rolling down to a hardscaped shoreline is giving way to something more sophisticated – naturalized shorelines that work with nature rather than against it.

These contemporary shorelines don't have to be messy or haphazard; they're thoughtfully designed plant communities that showcase ecological understanding in action. They're a different kind of sophistication which show you 'get it'.

> There's something deeply satisfying about creating a legacy that extends beyond our time at the lake.

Science and sense

The science is compelling. A 30-metre vegetated buffer can remove up to 85% of pollutants and excess nutrients from runoff. When you consider 80-90% of lake life depends on shoreline habitat, you begin to see why natural shorelines matter so much.

"But what about my view and lake access?" The good news is naturalization doesn't mean sacrificing either. It's about designing intelligently – creating viewing corridors, winding paths to the water, and selecting varied-height plants. A natural shoreline brings more wildlife directly to your property, adding to your experience without sacrificing views.

Let's talk investment, because that matters too. Studies show that for every additional foot of water clarity, property values in Cottage Country can increase by approximately 2%. Your naturalized shoreline contributes directly to this clarity by filtering runoff before it reaches the lake. Meanwhile, those dense root systems provide superior erosion protection compared to lawns – especially important as we face more extreme weather.

There's something deeply satisfying about creating a legacy that extends beyond your time at the lake. Imagine a child's eyes lighting up as they discover a turtle nesting in a restored shoreline, or spot the blue of an Indigo Bunting attracted by native plants. These moments create connections that shape how the next generation will care for our lakes.

You don't need to transform your entire shoreline at once. Start with a demonstration area – perhaps 10 feet wide. Choose native plants that thrive in local conditions and plant them densely in layers, just as nature does.

Each native plant you add contributes to a healthier lake and a more valuable property. More importantly, it establishes you as someone who understands that true sophistication means protecting what we all value most. Your actions create ripples – both in your lake and in your community – as others witness what's possible when we work with nature rather than against it.

Those who recognize a naturalized shoreline isn't just good environmental stewardship – it's the new standard for thoughtful cottage ownership. These pioneers are actively shaping the future of our lakes. Will you be part of this legacy?

Simon Payn is the owner of Haliburton-based natural garden company, Grounded. To find out more, visit groundedgardens.ca.

Natural gardens and shorelines designed and installed
using plants native to the area
For more info and a free guide to natural gardens in Haliburton County, visit groundedgardens.ca
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What's on

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Municipality of Dysart et al

Household Hazardous Waste Events 2025

Saturday, May 24 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM	**S.G. Nesbit Arena** 55 Parkside Street, Minden
Saturday, July 5 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM	**Glamorgan Transfer Station** 1042 McColl's Rd., Glamorgan
Saturday, July 19 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM	**S.G. Nesbit Arena** 55 Parkside Street, Minden
Saturday, July 26 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM	**Haliburton Landfill** 222 Industrial Park Road, Haliburton
Saturday, August 9 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM	**Harcourt Landfill** 1123 Packard Road, Harcourt
Saturday, August 16 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM	**Dorset Transfer Station** 1087 Maple Ridge Dr., Dorset
Saturday, Sept. 13 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM	**West Guilford Landfill** 11903 Hwy 118, West Guilford
Saturday, Sept. 20 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM	**S.G. Nesbit Arena** 55 Parkside Street, Minden
Saturday, Sept. 27 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM	**Tory Hill Landfill** 19178 Hwy 118, Tory Hill
Saturday, Oct. 18 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM	**Maple Lake Landfill** 1302 McPhail Rd., Algonquin Highlands

Any resident of the County of Haliburton can attend any of these Household Hazardous Waste Days!
You must show your landfill user ID card to bring materials to any event

Mountain Lake at a Glance
The Hidden Nature of Paint
May 15 - July 12, 2025

An exhibit by Gord Peteran
Opening Reception Saturday, May 17, 1-3 pm

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Minden Hills Museum & Heritage Village
Victorian Tea, Guided Tours, Heritage Activities
Heritage printing demonstration, 12 - 2 pm

Nature's Place Interpretive Centre
Browning Reptiles Exotic Animals, 11 am - 1 pm
Interactive exhibits and activities

Agnes Jamieson Gallery
Mountain Lake at a Glance: The Hidden Nature of Paint
Exhibit by Gord Peteran, Opening Reception, 1 - 3 pm

Admission by donation
Open Tuesday - Saturday, 10 am - 4 pm
176 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden
705-286-3763 | culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca
MINDEN HILLS
Cultural Centre

What's on

WHAT'S HAPPENING
MAY 15 - 22 this week

Thursday May 15

Boshkung Brewing Live Music 6 pm – 9 pm

Saturday May 17

Boshkung Brewing Live Music 3 pm – 6 pm

Sunday May 18

Boshkung Brewing Live Music 1 pm – 4 pm

Tuesday May 20

Haliburton Brewing Canoe FM Radion Bingo & dinner 6 pm

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Over the last few years we've installed with Walker's a heat pump/AC unit, two ductless AC units, and 3 dehumidifiers. Installation and service has always been outstanding and reliable. Whenever maintenance questions arise the office and team are very approachable and easy to reach. I definitely trust and recommend this business! ~ Y. NM
We hired Walker's to install a new Mitsubishi Zuba air source heat pump. The entire experience was positive, from an original site visit by Scott to dealing with technicians Avery, Josh and Joe. They all listened to my wants and concerns and ensured I was 100 percent satisfied. The new Zuba is everything I hoped it would be. Looking forward to a long relationship with Walker's. ~ G. V
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What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Room. Youth darts league, for ages 10 to 18, at 6:30 p.m. in the clubroom. All are welcome.
Tuesdays: League darts starting at 7 p.m in the clubroom. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m. between September and June.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, Remembrance Hall. Bingo 5 p.m. doors open, 7 p.m. start time, Remembrance Hall. Snack bar available – French fries and hot dogs available while supplies last.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month.
Fridays: meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. 50/50 draw at 5 p.m, tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Clubroom hours: Monday 3-9 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday closed.

Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for rental information call Cheryl Waller at 905- 447-7741, email haliburtonlegion-rentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com/facility-rentals Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129…everyone is welcome!

The Legion's mandate is to help veterans, assist with their mental and physical health and social wellbeing, provide a feeling of togetherness and combat isolation. All are welcome to attend our events.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Thursday** with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' **Tuesday.**
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Mondays: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Tuesdays: closed
Wednesdays: open 2 to 6 p.m.
Thursdays: open 2 to 10 p.m.
Fridays: open 2 to 11 p.m.
Saturdays: open 2 to 9 p.m.
Sundays: closed, special events only

Darts at 7 p.m. May 19 and 26 Cost is $5 per player. Afternoon sessions are May 21 and 28 starting at 2 p.m. Cost is $4 per player.

We have suspended our cornhole league.

Fish and chips May 16 and 30 from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 for one piece, $20 for two pieces.

Wings and jam session May 23 from 5 to 8 p.m. Cost is $15 per pound.

Seniors 55+ lunch May 23 at noon. Cost is $17 per person

Meat draw May 17, 24, and 31 at 3 p.m.

EVENTS

Muskoka/Haliburton District 11 is holding its 55+ summer games throughout May and June. Join us for bowling, cards, golf, pickleball, shuffleboard, tennis, and walking. Visit district11.osga55plus.ca for more information, or call 705-749-3787. Registration deadline for the final event is May 30.

The Minden Health Care Auxiliary has a sale table at its gift shop at Highland Wood long-term care home in Minden through May and June. Prices will be slashed, so come out and see what's on sale. The shop is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Tursdays from noon to 3 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, contact Cecille Gibbons at 705-905-7473 or cgibbons24@hotmail.com.

May 15, 7 p.m. The Canadian Federation of University Women Haliburton Highlands is hosting a night with Barrie Martin, one of the founders of the Haliburton County Folk Society, and creator of Telling Our Stories Speaker Series. Taking place at the Haliburton School of Art + Design. All are welcome.

May 16, 4 to 6 p.m. Not to Scale exhibit opening reception at Rails End Gallery. Created by students from Stuart Baker Elementary, J.D. Hodgson Elementary, and Hal High, this bilingual exhibition travels across time – past, present and future. Running until June 13. Admission is free, donations welcome.

May 17, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Snowflake Meadows Magical Fundraiser at 1089 Ritchie Falls Rd. in Minden. Your contributions will be used to further Snowflake's mission to provide veterinary care, food, housing and training to animals in need. There will be bouncy castles, petting zoo, pony rides, puppy play time, live music, kids games, face painting, silent auction, food and more.

May 17, 10 a.m. to noon. Annual plant sale hosted by the Minden & District Horticultural Society at 63 Bobcaygeon Rd. in Minden. This event will happen rain or shine. New this year – vendors.

May 17, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library is hosting a mega book nook sale at the Minden Hills location. Payment is by cash donation. All proceeds supports library enhancements and programs. Remember to bring your own bag.

May 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Haliburton County Farmers Market comes to downtown Minden, with this year's vendors offering seasonal produce, meats, cheeses, baked goods, preserves, prepared foods, hand-crafted artisan items and more. Takes place every Saturday. The Haliburton event, hosted at Head Lake Park, is May 20, running every Tuesday until Oct. 7.

May 18, 6:30 a.m. The Don Smith Memorial Bird Walk will begin at the rail trail at Gould's Crossing Road, led by bird expert Ed Poropat. Registration is required, admission by donation. Visit haliburtonlandtrust.ca or call 705-457-3700 to reserve a spot.

Have a non-profit event you want advertised? email mike@thehighlander.ca.

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Composting

Composting is a simple way to reduce the amount of waste you dispose of.

Dysart sells two composting units: Composters ($57 flat fee), and Digesters ($124 flat fee), that can be purchased at the Haliburton Landfill, 222 Industrial Park Road, Haliburton, during regular operating hours.

Composter

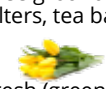
Composters use air, moisture and the layering of different materials to aid decomposition and create nutrient rich soil as a finished product.

50% "green" materials

Raw fruit and vegetables

Coffee grounds and filters, tea bags

Egg shells


Fresh (green) yard clippings, plants, leaves

50% "brown" materials

Dry leaves and plants

Dry sticks (broken up)

Hair and fur

Add materials, alternating between "green" and "brown" layers. Turn the pile with a shovel to add air. The pile should be as damp as a wrung-out sponge.

Digester

Digesters promote decomposition without air. Micro-organisms breakdown organic waste and it leaches into the ground, feeding plants that surround it. Digesters are considered more bear-proof.

Cooked food

Baked goods

Coffee grounds and filters, tea bags

Dairy

Eggs and egg shells

Green yard clippings, plants, leaves

Meat and bones

Raw fruit and vegetables

Place the digester over a 1 meter (3 foot) hole. Install the digester and then start adding kitchen waste. Limit meat/bone/fish for the first four to six weeks until the digester is established. Digesters do NOT produce compost/humus.

Municipality of Dysart et al

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Highlander classifieds

YARD SALES!

HUGE MULTI FAMILY YARD SALE – Hunter Creek Estates, 3 minutes south of Minden, signs posted. Saturday, May 17th – 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Rain or Shine! Workshop tools, garden tools, household items, camping items, generator, furniture and much more!

YARD SALE – 1263 Burkes Road, Haliburton (off Hwy 118) Saturday, May 17th & Sunday, May 18th from
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Household items, furniture, garage stuff, tires and much more.

MOVING SALE – 1675 Braeloch Rd, Algonquin Highlands. Saturday, May 17th & Sunday, May 18th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Various household items, fishing equipment, hunting equipment and much more!

GIANT YARD SALE – 15661 Hwy 35 Saturday, May 17th & Sunday, May 18th from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Household items, patio furniture, fireplace, various items and something for everyone!

YARD SALE – 43 Invergordon Road, Saturday, May 17th & Sunday, May 18th from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Household items, furniture, artwork, small appliances and much more!

YARD SALE – 27 Sancayne Street, Rain or Shine! Saturday, May 17th & Sunday May 18th from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Garden tools, books, puzzles, 500 DVD's, life jackets and much more!

YARD SALE – 1028 Barry Line, Saturday, May 17th & Sunday, May 18th from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Plumbing, electric HVAC tools, fastners, household items and jewelry.

YARD SALE – 1032 Kensington Road, off Trappers Trail. Saturday, May 17th & Sunday, May 18th from
8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tools, chainsaw, weed wacker, outdoor furniture.

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Highlander classifieds

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FOR SALE - New (July 2024) Aluminum Truss Docks with Removable PT Sienna Wood Panels For Sale, Made by R&J: 1-8x20 Foot Pipe Dock $2.5k OBO; 1-16x16 Foot Floating Dock with

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FOR RENT – 2 Bedroom Apt for rent, York Street, Haliburton.. For more information call Eric at 705-341-1710

FOR RENT – Upscale 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath Apartment in town, 5 minute walk to the College. Ideal for professional couple or students. $2,800, per month. Includes all amenities. No kids, No pets. For more information call Dan at 705-455-6865. Available June, lease term flexible.

SELF-CONTAINED STORAGE UNITS for rent - Industrial Park Road, Various Sizes, Call (705) 457-1224

HELP WANTED

REPUTABLE BUILDING CONTRACTOR looking for a person with Carpentry Experience. Must have valid driver's license. Please call 705-754-4603.

WANTING WORK

CONSTRUCTION WORKER looking for work. Familiar with all aspects of construction. Mason by trade. Available for weekends or rainy days or full time, Call Shannon 306-317-7073

WANTED

WANTED – Loader Tractor with Cab plus 3 pt hitch. Must run & work good. Cash waiting! Call 705-286-3823 or e-mail samuriron@hotmail.com

WANTED

J & D TOWING & SERVICE STATION - will pay top dollar for scrap cars. We also provide towing services as well as flat bed. Call Jim 705-447-2113

WANTED – Scrap metal, fridges, stoves, any metal. We will pick up. Please call 519-820-5701 this is a Gooderham phone number.

NOTICE

Haliburton County Snowmobile Association Annual General Meeting, Saturday, May 24, 2025 at 9:30 a.m. Haliburton Legion, 719 Mountain Street. Everyone Welcome!

EVENT

EVENT - Norwood Country Jamboree - July 17-20. Tickets available at Wilson Tire & Battery, Lindsay or 1-800-954-9998

Annual Plant Sale: Sunday May 18 & Monday May 19, 10-4 Organic veggie seedlings, perennials, maple syrup & eggs Location: Tory Hill, across from Tory Hill Park. highway 118/503, follow signs Contact Liz: hilltopharvest705@gmail.com

THE MAP IS BACK !!!

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S	O	E	C	■	S	E	Y	T	S	■	N	E	D	E
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B	A	A	S	■	D	A	M	E	B	E	A	M	I	P

THIS WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

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HELP WANTED

LOUNGE

Seeking Chefs, Line Cooks, Dishwashers and Servers for hire.

Email us at Lounge_Cafe@hotmail.com

HALIBURTON COMMUNITY HOUSING CORPORATION (HCHC)
Board of Directors Opportunities

HCHC is currently seeking an individual to serve as a Director on the Corporation's Board.

If you are a community minded individual and believe in the value of affordable housing, please consider submitting a resume to join our caring compliment. The initial commitment will be for the balance of the term ending June 22, 2026. The average commitment is approximately 3-5 hours per month depending on your personal level of involvement. HCHC is particularly interested in hearing from people with knowledge experience and/or interest in any of the following areas:

- Operations/Maintenance
- Finance
- Legal
- Construction
- Affordable Housing
- Participating in a Community Board

If you would like to consider applying for this volunteer position we would like to hear from you by June 14, 2025. Please send an email to president@haliburtonhousing.com

CANOE 100.9 & 97.1 FM www.CanoeFM.com

WORK WITH US THIS SUMMER!

Canada Summer Jobs Opportunity
Media Coordinator – Summer Position

Canoe FM is hiring a Media Coordinator for an 8-week summer position through the Canada Summer Jobs program. We're looking for a friendly, motivated, service-oriented team player to join our community radio station.

Start Date: June 16, 2025

Hours: 35 hours per week (flexible hours, including some Saturdays)

Wage: $20.00/hour

Eligibility: Applicants must be between the ages of 15 and 30 in accordance with Canada Summer Jobs funding requirements.

To view the full job description visit:
www.canoefm.com
To apply, send your resume to:
manager@canoefm.com

Deadline to apply: May 16, 2025

JOIN US IN BRINGING GREAT COMMUNITY RADIO TO HALIBURTON COUNTY!

WANTED

WANTED ANTIQUES

Furniture, old signs, gold or costume jewellery, wrist and pocket watches, old coins, sterling silver, teacups, china, books, records, miltary items, paintings, **anything old**.

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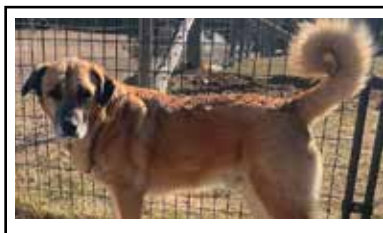
LOST / FOUND



Found in the town of Haliburton

Found in the town of Haliburton during the ice storm weekend, we've named him Claude. We've created the best social media posts to help find his owners, but unfortunately, we haven't received any responses yet. Proof of ownership would be required. If the owners aren't found, this happy and friendly dog needs to find a forever home. If you're interested in fostering or adopting him, please contact Paws at 705-854-0055 or email paws@killarastation.com.

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory

Elizabeth "Betty" Inglis (nee Davidson)

Peacefully surrounded by her family at Hyland Crest Longterm Care Home, Minden on May 9, 2025. She is fondly remembered by her children, Heather, Fay and Tom (Debbie), her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She is predeceased by her infant son James, husband Jim and her parents William and Mary Davidson of Auldearn, Scotland. Betty was one of eleven children and is survived and remembered by four of her younger siblings, Doreen, Alison, Laura and George. Betty graduated from Nursing School in 1944 in Inverness, Scotland. She came to Canada as a war bride with her daughter in 1946 and went on to lead a full and happy life with her husband Jim in Haliburton. The family are grateful for Betty's excellent care at Hyland Crest over the past four and a half years. Many thanks to the staff and volunteers who were instrumental in allowing her independence to the very end.

Visitation & Memorial Service

Friends are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705)457-9209 on Saturday afternoon, May 24, 2025 for a Memorial Service in the Chapel at 2 p.m. (Visitation one hour prior). Interment Evergreen Cemetery, Haliburton. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation or a charity of choice would be greatly appreciated by the family.

Community Funeral Home

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Highlander puzzles

Oh Well, We Tried

by Barbara Olson
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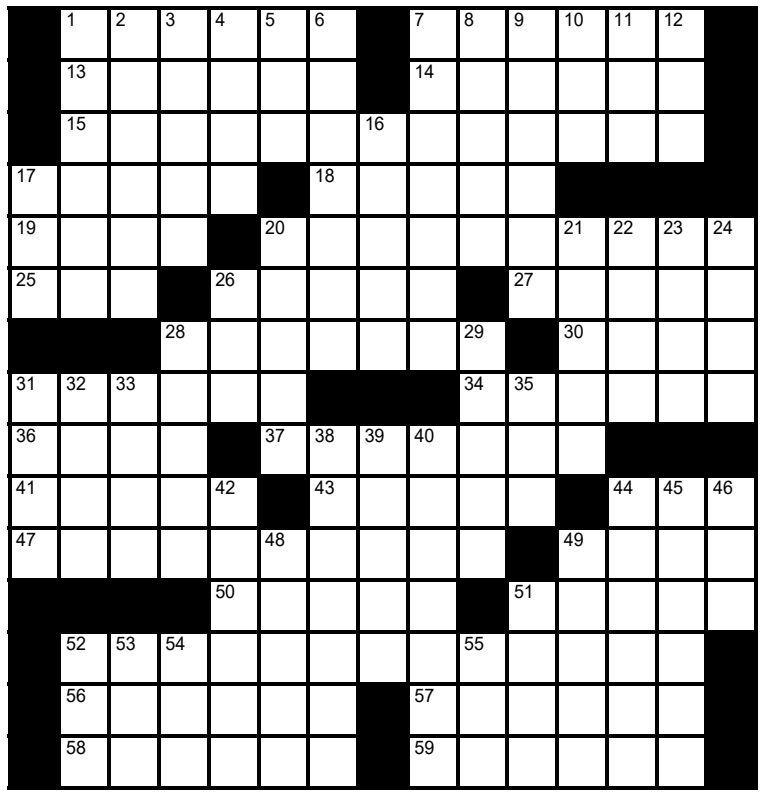
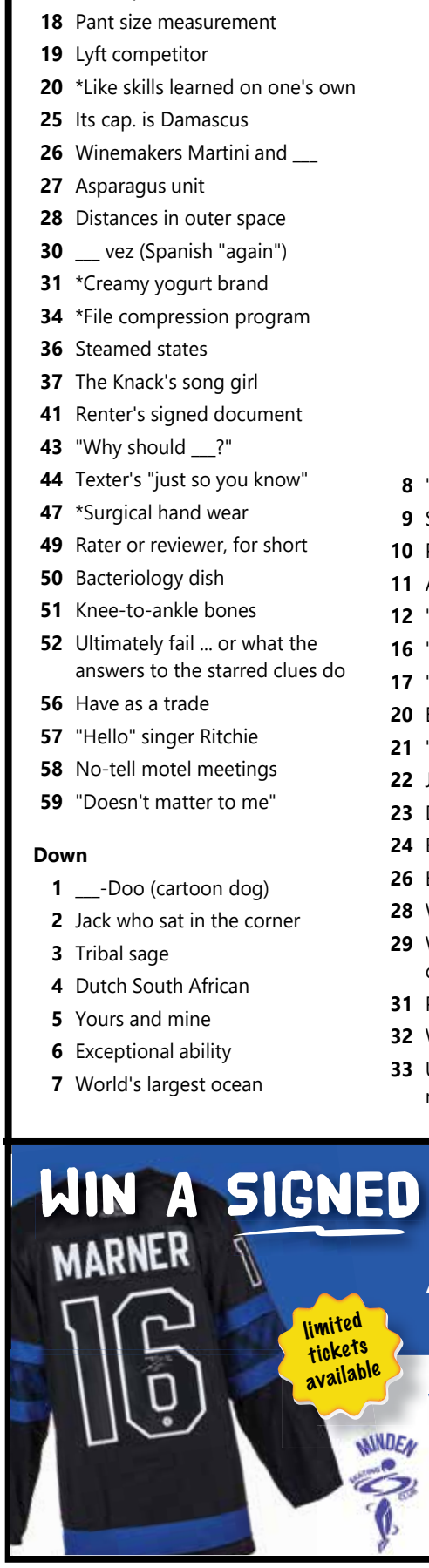


Across

1 Big hit for Cyndi Lauper
7 Turn a Monopoly corner
13 Crayon selection
14 St. John's, Nfld. peninsula
15 *Honour awarded to Margaret Atwood, Leonard Cohen and Terry Fox
17 No-hoper
18 Pant size measurement
19 Lyft competitor
20 *Like skills learned on one's own
25 Its cap. is Damascus
26 Winemakers Martini and ___
27 Asparagus unit
28 Distances in outer space
30 ___ vez (Spanish "again")
31 *Creamy yogurt brand
34 *File compression program
36 Steamed states
37 The Knack's song girl
41 Renter's signed document
43 "Why should ___?"
44 Texter's "just so you know"
47 *Surgical hand wear
49 Rater or reviewer, for short
50 Bacteriology dish
51 Knee-to-ankle bones
52 Ultimately fail ... or what the answers to the starred clues do
56 Have as a trade
57 "Hello" singer Ritchie
58 No-tell motel meetings
59 "Doesn't matter to me"

Down

1 ___-Doo (cartoon dog)
2 Jack who sat in the corner
3 Tribal sage
4 Dutch South African
5 Yours and mine
6 Exceptional ability
7 World's largest ocean
8 "Stop, sailor!"
9 Some Christmas play roles
10 Patty Hearst kidnappers: Abbr.
11 Addressee in a Judy Blume title
12 "... ___ sesame seed bun"
16 "F" on a multiple choice test
17 "Hop on the bus, ___" (song lyric)
20 Bandaged spots
21 "When you wish ___ star ... "
22 Jazz sax player Stan
23 Dancing spy Mata
24 Exterminator's device
26 Bled in the washer
28 Wild West law group
29 What the newlywed did in church, strangely
31 Pickling herb
32 Width x length
33 Unlike a doctor's handwriting, maybe
35 Suffix with sup or serpent
38 Family of Paris
39 Chip 'n Dale treat
40 Stuffed pockets in a ristorante
42 Gives the boot
44 Feta cheese solutions
45 Feeling pins and needles
46 Dieters' concerns: Abbr.
48 Have an "aha" moment
49 Special-occasion dinnerware
51 It has a tongue and a tread
52 Man. summer clock setting
53 Atop, poetically
54 "Merry" month
55 Horton whose patrons "roll up the rim"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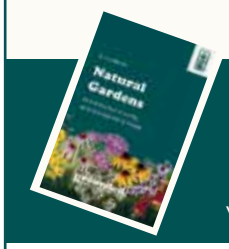

For a free guide to natural gardens in Haliburton County, visit groundedgardens.ca.

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